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12

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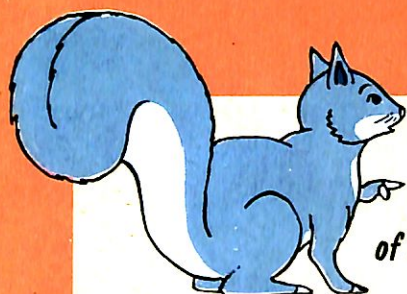
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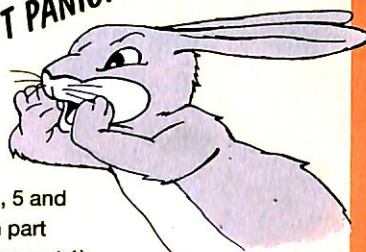
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Once you've found homes for your
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Farthing Wood characters.

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BADGE
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ALSO

IN ISSUE 13

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Hide and seek!

CREDITS

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Key: AA = All About...; Cl = Colour it in; DN = Discovering Nature;
FF = Fascinating Facts; HTD = How to Draw; PIO = Puzzle it out;
SW = Secret World.

12:The Butcher bird



Badger and the other animals were forced to seek shelter for the night when Mrs Fieldmouse's babies were born. Toad's homing instinct had led the creatures in a circle and they were all tired out.

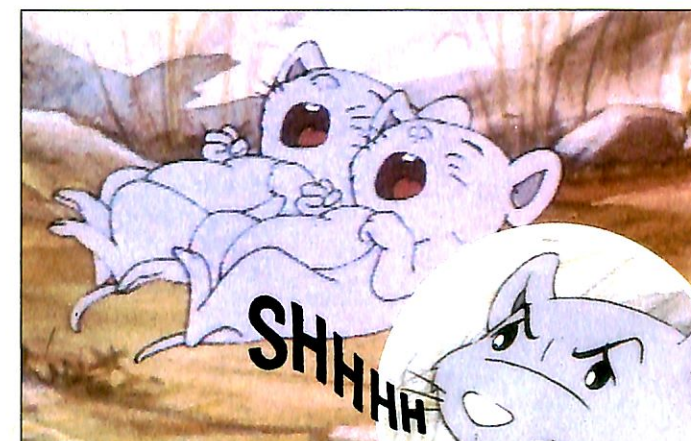
The Mice and Shrews were woken by an excited Vole. "We tiny animals can stay here," he cried, "The ground's soft, there's a shady hedge and water in the ditch." "Badger won't like that," muttered Mr Hedgehog.



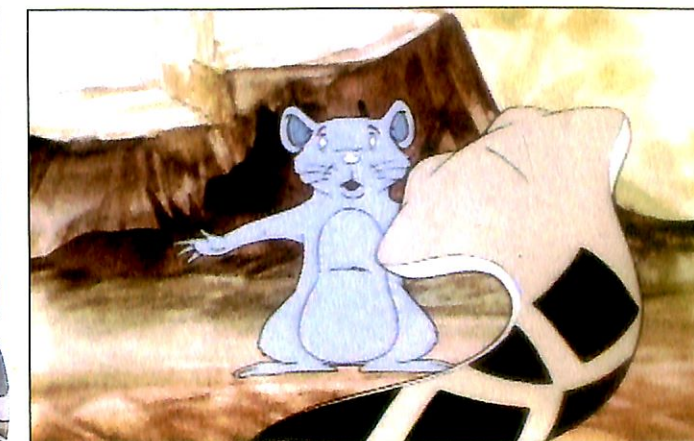
"We'll take a vote and see if anyone agrees with me," said the Vole. "Hands up who wants to stay here." The Mice, Shrews and Voles all put up their hands. "Right," said Vole, "We'll go and tell Badger."



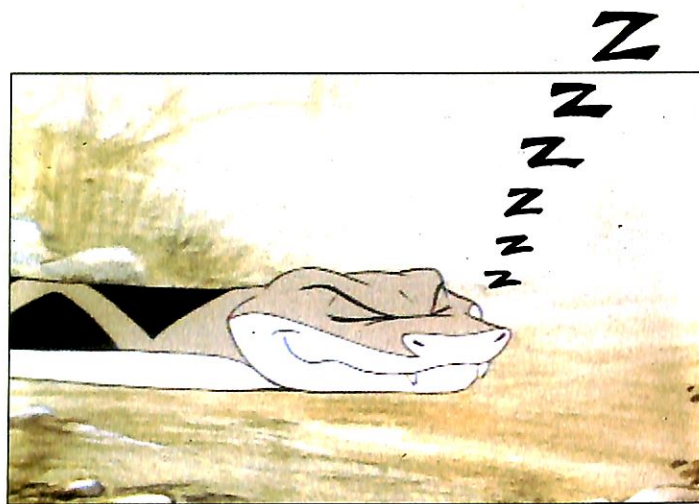
Badger and Mole were eating grubs for breakfast. Vole and Fieldmouse told them what they had decided. "I don't think we should split up," said Badger. "We all agreed to help each other get to White Deer Park."



All this discussion woke the baby Mice. "Shhh," said Mrs Fieldmouse. Adder slithered past. "Jussst going to sssee thossse babiesss!" she hissed.



"I can put your little ones to sssleep," Adder said to Mrs Fieldmouse. She began to sway from side to side. "She's trying to hypnotize you!" cried Mrs Rabbit. "Don't panic!"

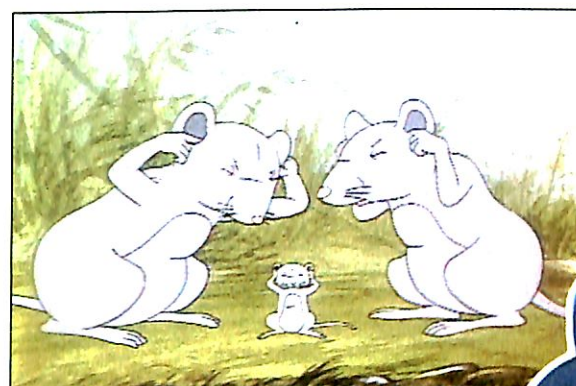


Adder's head swayed lower and lower ... then she dropped down and closed her eyes. "She's sent herself off to sleep!" gasped Mrs Rabbit.



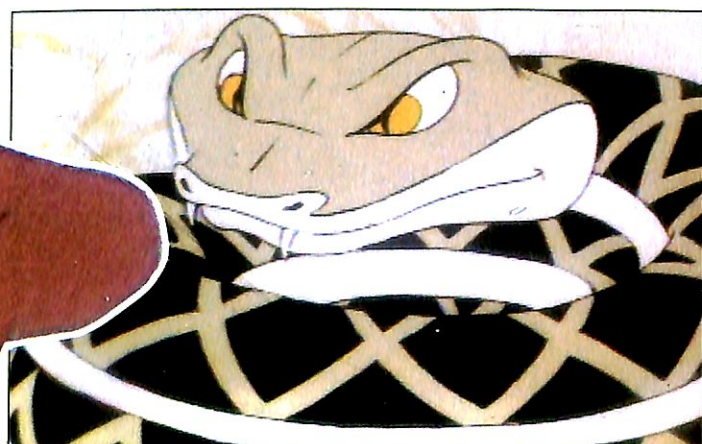
Badger made a decision. "We'll have to go on to White Deer Park without the Mice, Voles and Shrews. "Who's going to wake up Adder?" asked Mole. "I've got an idea," said Mrs Squirrel. "Let's get Weasel to sing!"

Weasel didn't need asking twice. "Beauootiful Dreamer..." she trilled and screeched.

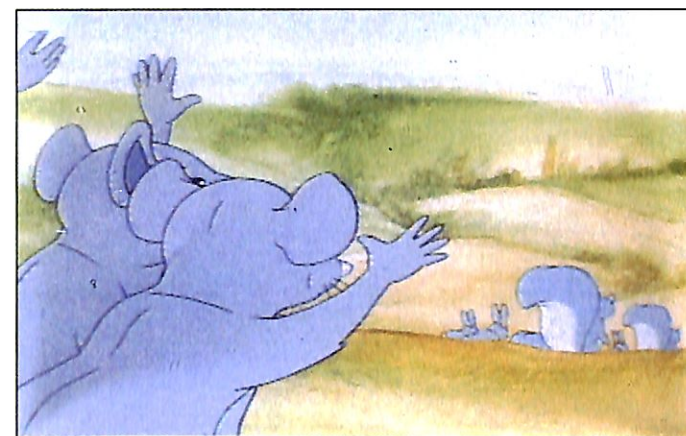


The other animals covered their ears...

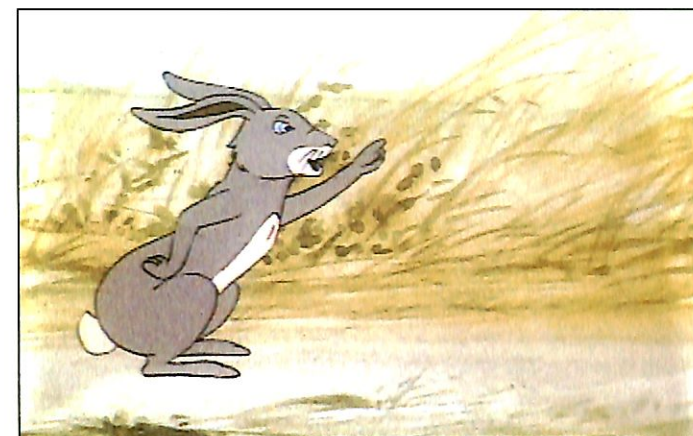
...and Mole tried to get underground.



It only took a couple of bars before Adder woke up with a start.



The Mice waved them off as Badger reluctantly set off with Toad leading the way. "I'm not happy about leaving those little animals behind," he muttered to Mole.



A short way along a bird flew overhead carrying something in its mouth. "That looks like one of ours," Hare gasped.



Badger looked up and saw that the bird had a Mouse in its beak. "Hare, you're the fastest runner, go back and see if the Mice and Voles are all right," he said.



Back at the hedge there was a terrible sight. Stuck on the thorns were several baby Mice. A bird sat proudly on a branch. "You're the Butcher bird," gasped Hare. "Shriiike! That's what they call me," said the bird proudly.



"Where are the Voles, Mice and Shrews?" asked Hare. "We're all here," came a tiny frightened voice from under the hedge. "But the Butcher bird has killed all the babies."

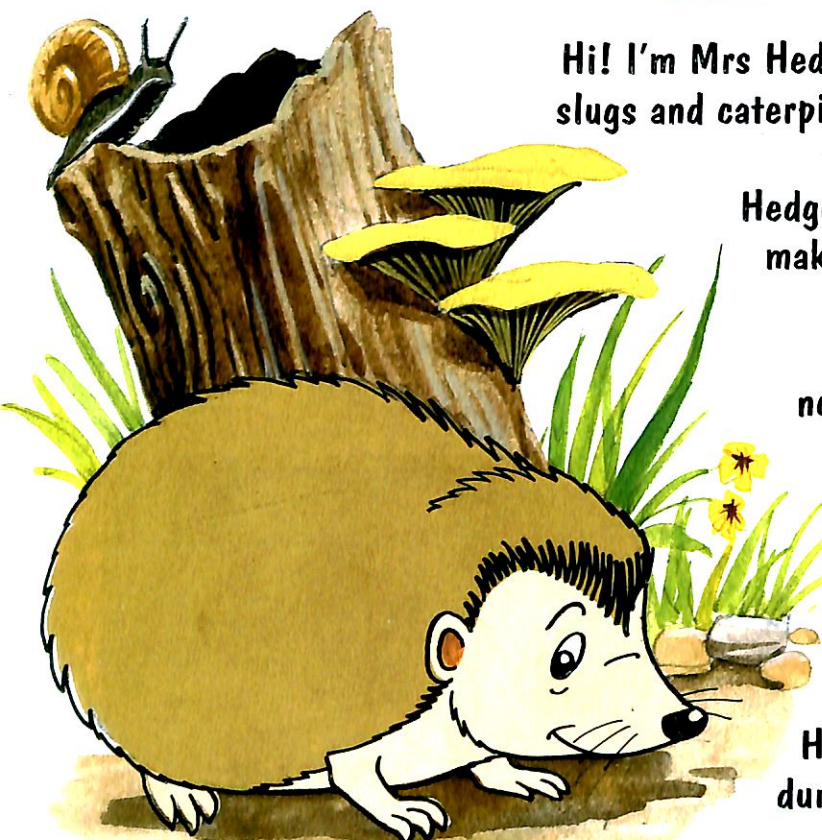


Mr Vole came out and Badger picked him up. "I'm sorry Badger," said Vole. "You were right - we should have stuck together." The band of friends set off again. Will they ever get to White Deer Park?

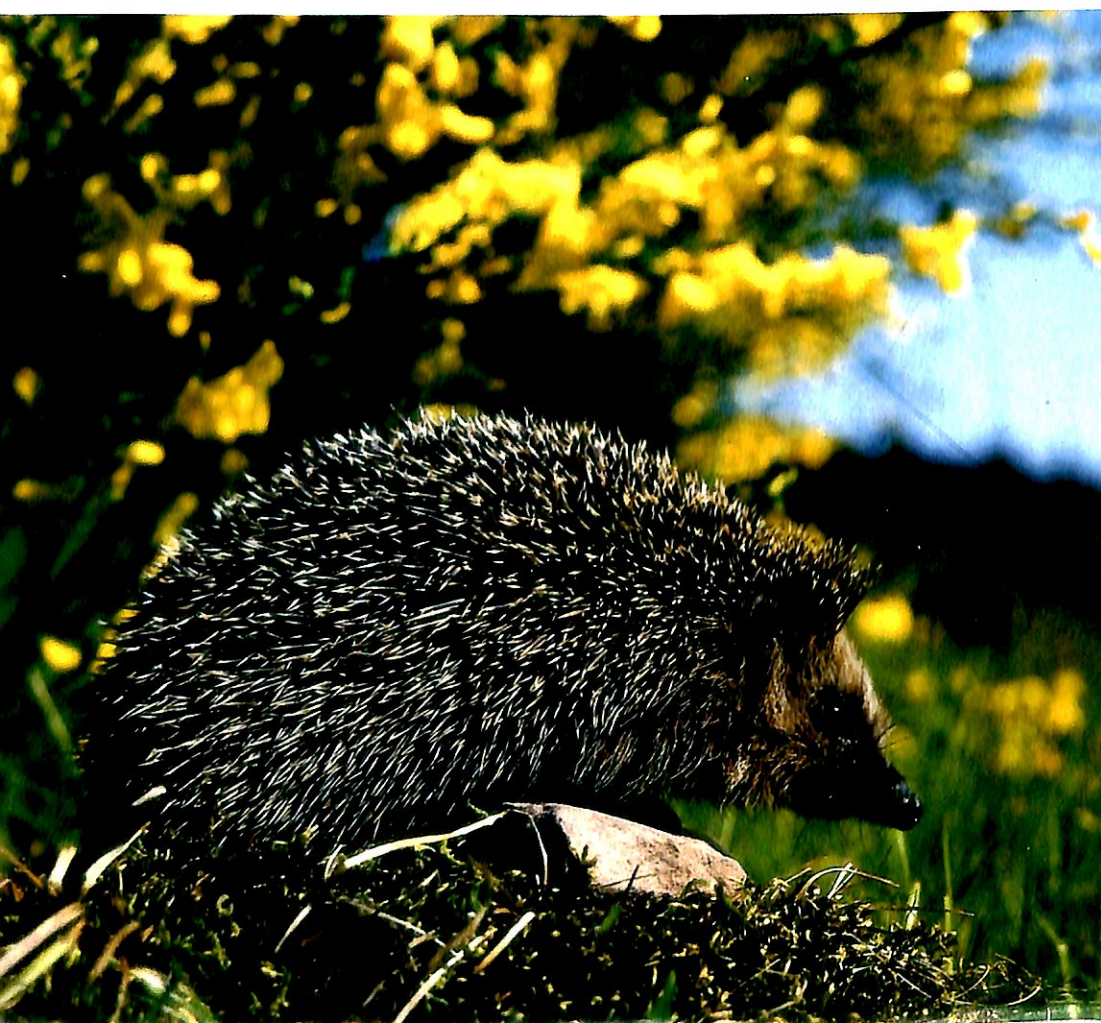
Next week: What happened to Fox?

All About...

Hedgehogs



Hi! I'm Mrs Hedgehog, friend of gardeners, lover of beetles, slugs and caterpillars and hater of cars and lorries. (I expect you know why — they run over so many of us Hedgehogs at night.) I'm covered in spines which make a very good suit of armour because when I roll up into a ball, my enemies can't get at the soft parts of my body. I have a pointed nose and whiskers and fur around my face and on my stomach. I have a short tail and five toes, each with a strong claw, on each foot. We Hedgehogs snuffle about in gardens, parks, hedgerows and woods looking for food — we don't like mountains or wet places though. If you want to see a Hedgehog close up, go into a garden at night during the summer with a torch and you might find one of us on our nightly food patrols.



Each Hedgehog has several nests for resting in during the day. When it's time for our babies to be born we females build extra-strong nests from leaves and grass. We choose what we hope will be a safe place, like under a garden shed or in a bramble thicket.

We Hedgehogs prefer to live alone and try to avoid bumping into each other when we're out and about as we're quite likely to get into a fight.

When we're courting, in spring, it's a different matter. Then females welcome the company of a male — though we are quite fussy about who we choose as a mate.



We feed our babies with milk for four to eight weeks. Then we take them out to show them how to catch worms, beetles and caterpillars on their own.



When our babies are born they have about 100 whitish spines — their brown ones grow later.

You might be wondering how we give birth to four or five prickly little ones without hurting ourselves. Well, it's really quite easy because before they're born our babies' rubbery spines are folded flat under their skin. A few hours after they're born they pop up and stick out, just like an adult's.



Life in the Garden

HEDGEHOG CARE

Gardens can be full of dangers for Hedgehogs. You can do lots of things to tempt them to stay and help them avoid accidents and illness.

■ It's great fun to see a Hedgehog feeding from a dish that you have specially put out for it – they've got good memories and will return night after night if you keep refilling the dish. BUT make sure you are giving them the right food:

A small dish of cat or dog food and a bowl of water is best.

NO milk or bread (it gives them diarrhoea).



■ Look out for things which might injure Hedgehogs or that might trap them. Clear away piles of netting, sharp tools and tin cans. Lift up sports nets at night.

■ If Hedgehogs fall into a pond that is lined with plastic they cannot climb up its slippery sides. Make sure you put in some kind of ramp so that they can get out.

■ Piles of leaves or compost heaps make comfy places for Hedgehogs' nests. If you're helping to clear up in the garden check very carefully that there isn't a snoozing Hedgehog curled up inside before you stick a garden fork into it or throw it on a bonfire.

IT'S
Amazing!

Hedgehogs have anything from 4000 to 7000 spines each – not bad for a creature that is only about 23cm long. Because of this prickly suit of armour, Hedgehogs have fewer enemies than most other British mammals.



Be a Nature Detective

If you're in the garden at night during the summer or early autumn and you hear leaves crackling or your dog suddenly starts barking at something on the

ground, go and investigate. It may well be a Hedgehog rooting around for food. If you want to offer it food yourself, read our advice in Hedgehog Care.

How do Hedgehogs play leapfrog?

Carefully!

We come out from our daytime resting places at dusk and travel about, sometimes for more than a mile, in search of beetles, slugs, snails, earwigs, spiders, caterpillars and worms. We have 36 strong teeth to crunch up our food. Gardeners like us because we eat a lot of their pests. We can see well, but we rely more on our noses and ears to find our food.

Weasel's Easel
Some people call
Hedgehogs Urchins
or Hedgepigs.

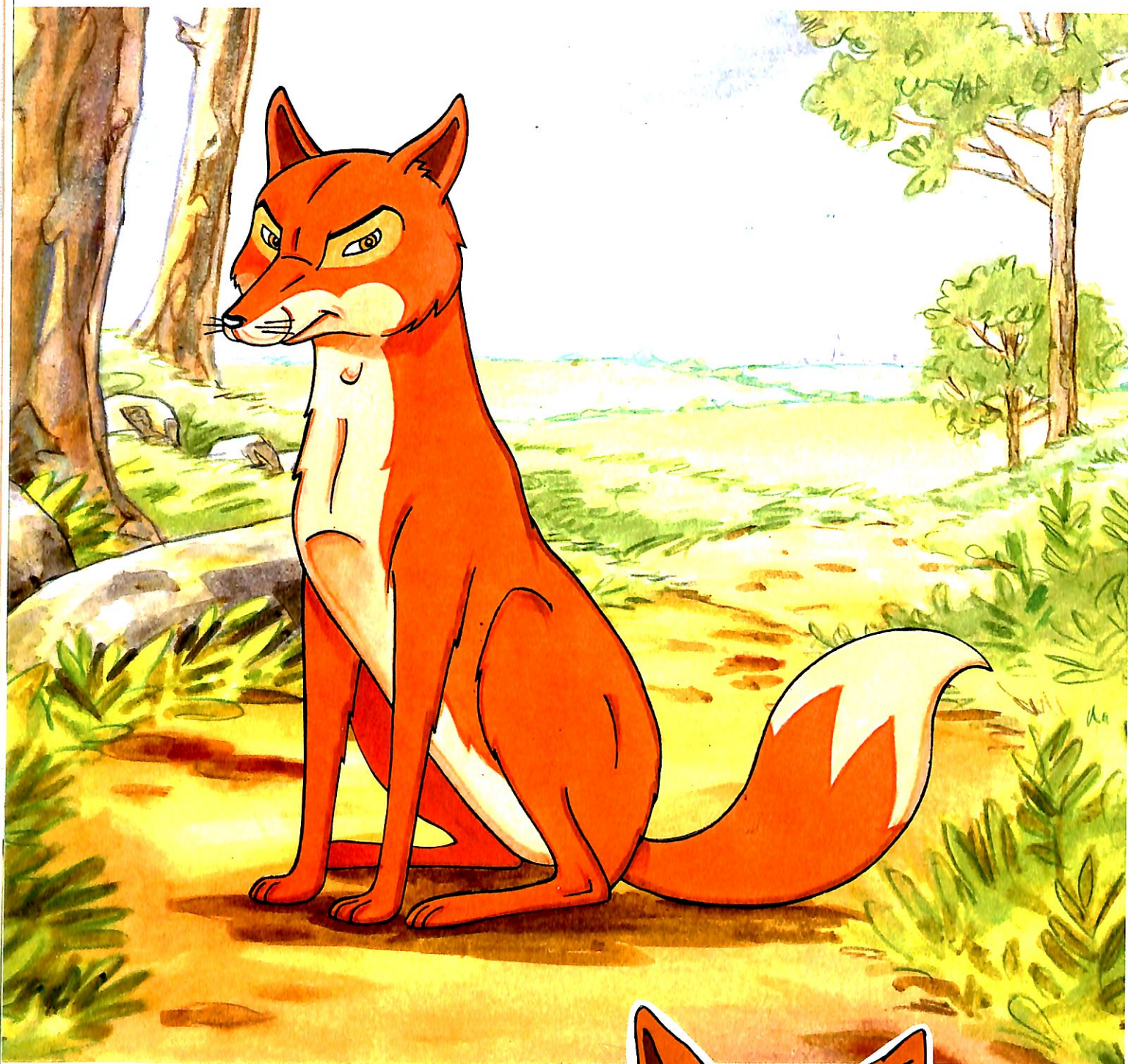


When we're thirsty we drink water. During the autumn, we Hedgehogs have to eat lots of food to make a layer of fat which will help us to survive the cold winter months.

When the first frosts arrive we make ourselves a nest deep in the bottom of a hedge or inside a heap of dried leaves or grasses, and hibernate. Our breathing slows right down to about ten breaths a minute. We use all our food reserves up, so by the time spring comes we are much lighter. If our babies do not manage to fatten up enough before winter they die.

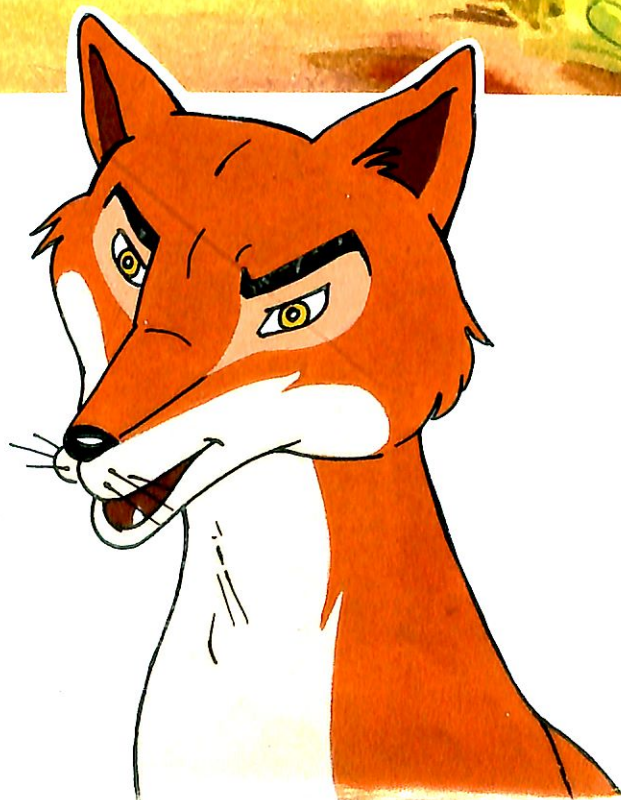
We Hedgehogs don't just shuffle along the ground – we can climb over walls and wire fences, burrow and swim across rivers and streams. We can also run surprisingly fast on our short legs.





Fox

Brave, cunning and clever, Fox was the obvious choice to be the animals' leader. He often puts his life in danger to save the others. Of course, his natural instinct would be to eat many of the animals he now finds himself protecting. But he has sworn the Oath and his word is his honour!

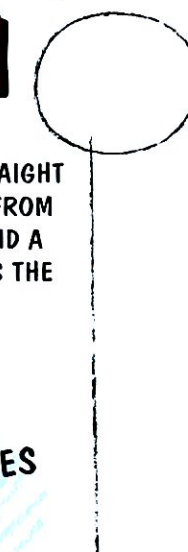


Drawing Fox

BEFORE YOU START...
PRACTISE DRAWING
THESE SHAPES

LONG AND SHORT
STRAIGHT LINES

1



DRAW A CIRCLE FOR
THE HEAD

DRAW A STRAIGHT
LINE DOWN FROM
THE HEAD AND A
LINE ACROSS THE
BOTTOM

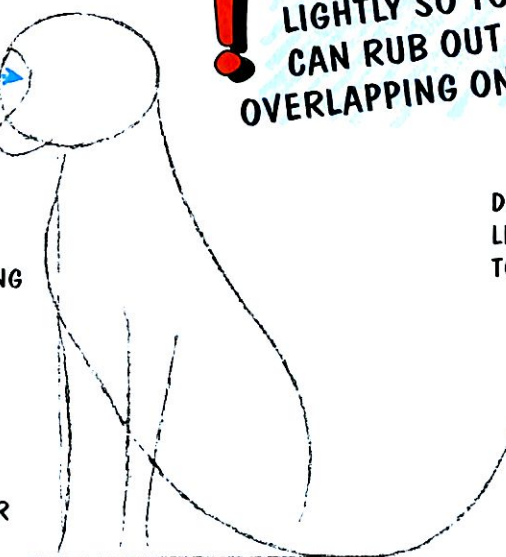
DRAW A CURVED LINE
FROM THE HEAD TO
THE BOTTOM LINE

2

DRAW A
CURVED LINE
FOR THE
NOSE

DRAW A
LONG SWEEPING
CURVE FOR
THE TUMMY
AND TAIL

MARK THE
POSITION FOR
THE LEGS



! DRAW YOUR LINES
LIGHTLY SO YOU
CAN RUB OUT
OVERLAPPING ONES

3

DRAW A V-SHAPED
LINE FROM THE EAR
TO THE NOSE

FINISH THE
FRONT LEGS

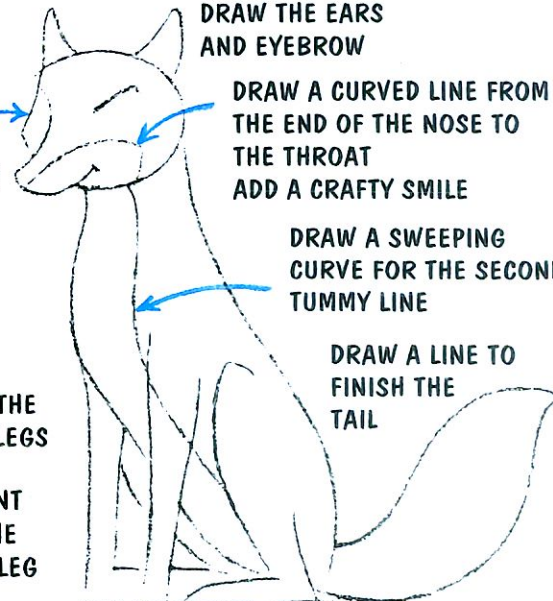
DRAW A BENT
LINE FOR THE
BACK HIND LEG
AND FOOT

DRAW THE EARS
AND EYEBROW

DRAW A CURVED LINE FROM
THE END OF THE NOSE TO
THE THROAT
ADD A CRAFTY SMILE

DRAW A SWEEPING
CURVE FOR THE SECOND
TUMMY LINE

DRAW A LINE TO
FINISH THE
TAIL



4

DRAW A LINE
DOWN THE
CENTRE OF THE
HEAD AND A
CURVED LINE
FOR THE CHEEK

ADD A LINE
DOWN THE
CHEST

DRAW THE
FRONT PAWS

DRAW A LINE
INSIDE THE EAR

DRAW A PAIR OF
SLANTING EYES

MAKE THE LINE ON THE
FACE HEART-SHAPED

ADD A SHORT
LINE ON THE
HIND LEG

FINISH THE
BACK PAWS

ADD A ZIGZAG
LINE ACROSS
THE TAIL



5

FINISH DRAWING
THE DETAILS ON
THE FACE

ADD SMALL
CURVED
LINES ON
THE CHEST

MAKE THE
FUR LOOK
SHAGGY

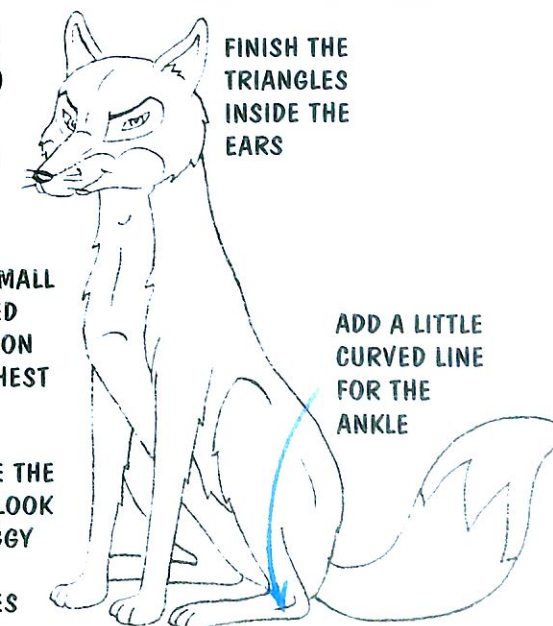
ADD TOES

DRAW THE FRONT
HIND LEG AND FOOT

FINISH THE
TRIANGLES
INSIDE THE
EARS

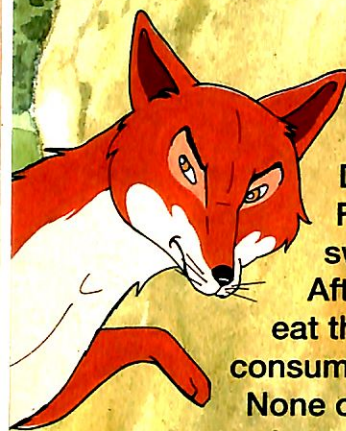
ADD A LITTLE
CURVED LINE
FOR THE
ANKLE

FINISH OFF THE
HIND FOOT





WHO EATS WHO

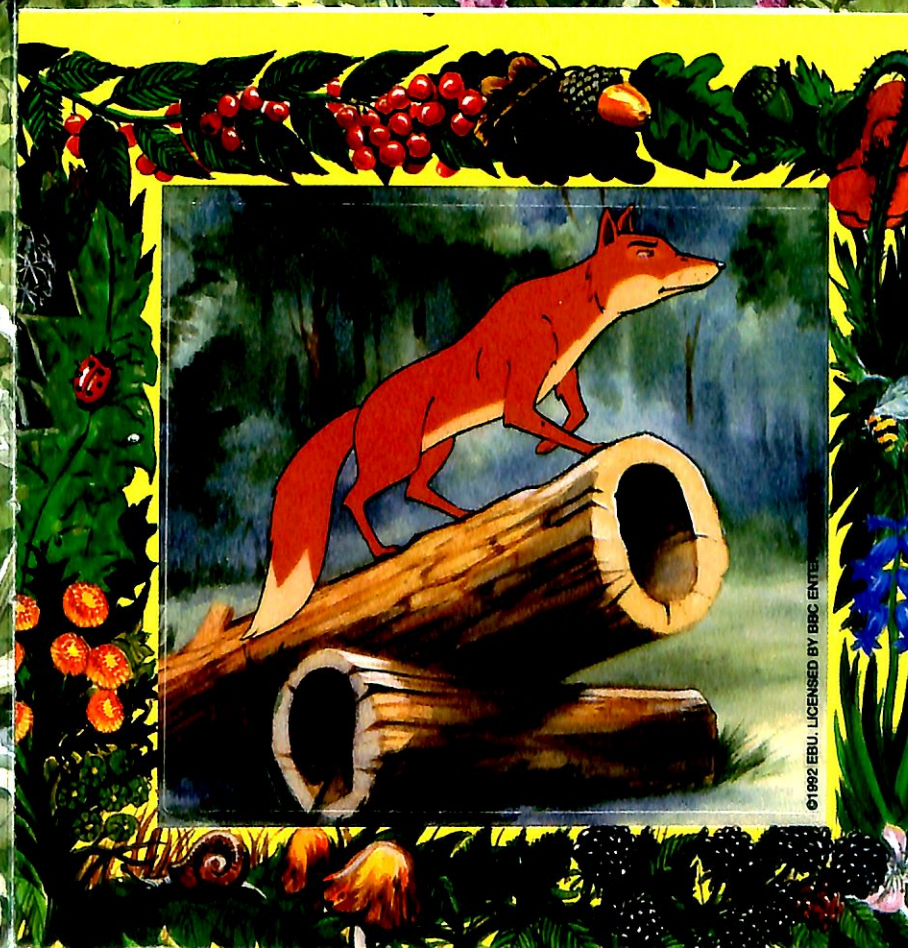


“When I was a cub I used to love the nursery rhyme about the old lady who swallowed a fly. Do you remember how it goes? First she swallows a fly. Then she swallows a spider to eat the fly. After that she gulps down a bird to eat the spider. And then she consumes a cat to eat the bird.

None of it's true, of course. But it does go to show how some creatures prey on other ones, and then get eaten up themselves! They form a sort of chain, and that's exactly what it's called – a food chain.

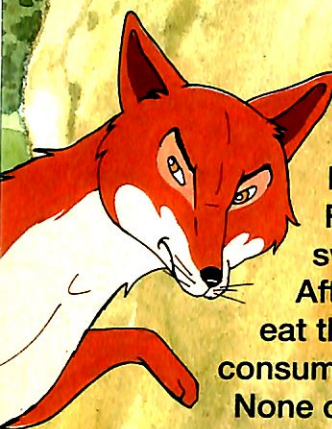
In the picture below are three food chains. Let me show you one of them. It starts with the leaves and tender young shoots of the Hogweed, which make a tasty meal for snails. The snails then get eaten by Pheasants, which in their turn are wolfed down by me, Fox. Nothing preys on foxes, I'm pleased to say, so the chain might seem to end there, but it doesn't. I'll tell you more about that over the page.”

Fox's Challenge: now I've shown you one of the food chains in the picture, can you work out the other two? Start with the Sycamore and the algae on the water plants' stems and end up with the Sparrowhawk and Man!





WHO EATS WHO



“When I was a cub I used to love the nursery rhyme about the old lady who swallowed a fly. Do you remember how it goes? First she swallows a fly. Then she swallows a spider to eat the fly. After that she gulps down a bird to eat the spider. And then she consumes a cat to eat the bird.

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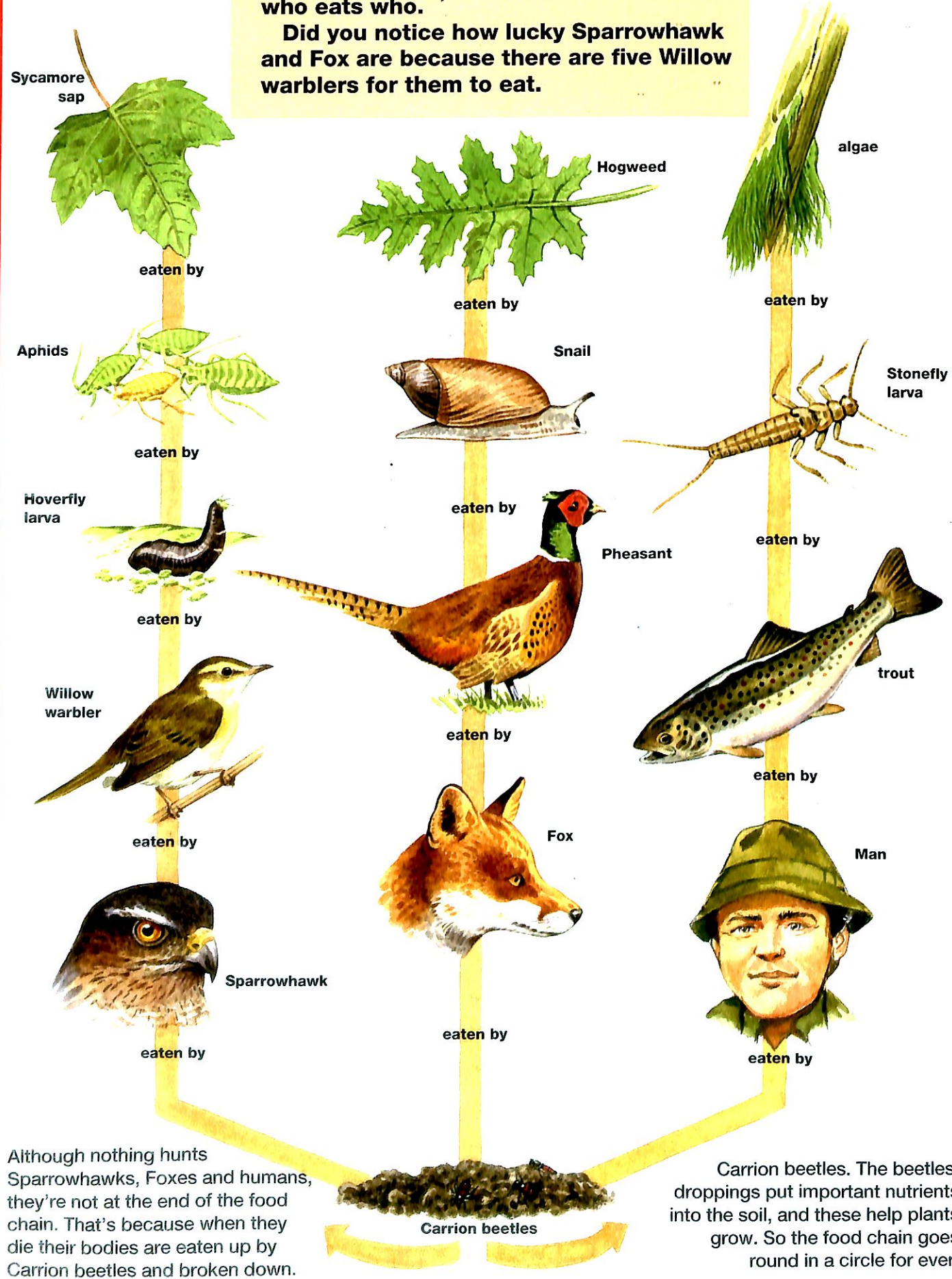
Fox's Challenge: now I've shown you one of the food chains in the picture, work out the other two? Start with Sycamore and the algae on the water plants' stems and end up with the Sparrowhawk and Man!





There's a lot of eating about to go on in the picture. This food chain shows you who eats who.

Did you notice how lucky Sparrowhawk and Fox are because there are five Willow warblers for them to eat.



Although nothing hunts Sparrowhawks, Foxes and humans, they're not at the end of the food chain. That's because when they die their bodies are eaten up by Carrion beetles and broken down.

Carrion beetles. The beetles' droppings put important nutrients into the soil, and these help plants grow. So the food chain goes round in a circle for ever!

EIGHT-LEGGED TRAPPERS



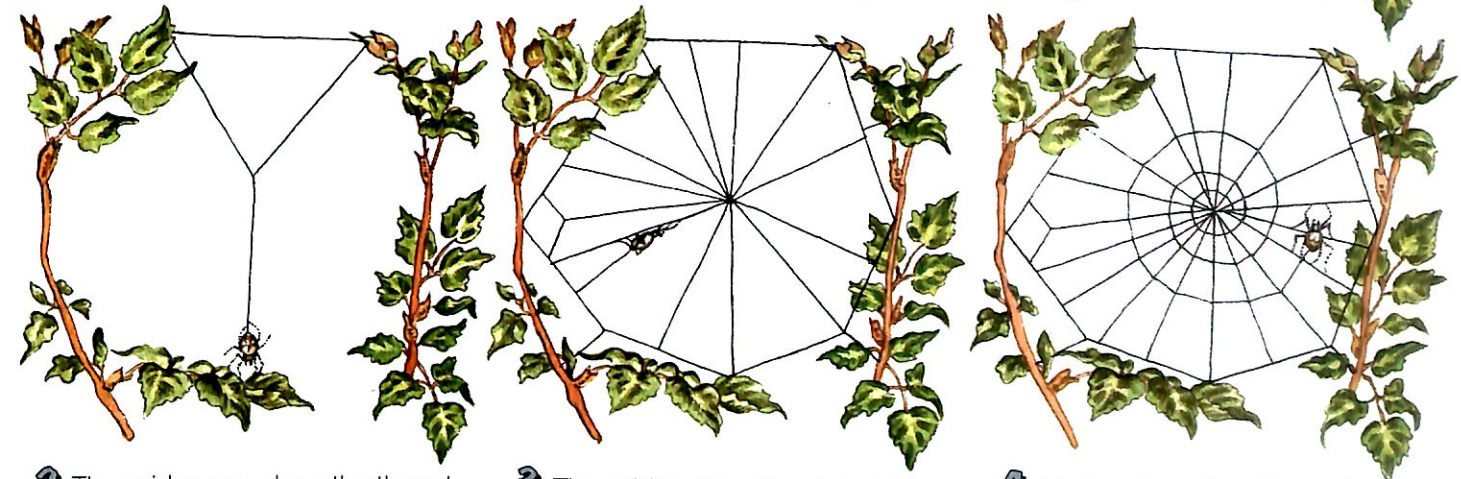
Spiders are crafty creatures. Many of them spin webs as traps – then wait for a tasty meal to come along. Spiders are not insects. You can easily tell the difference. Spiders have eight legs and two body parts. Insects have six legs and three body parts.

Spinning a web

Spiders spin their webs from silk made in a special gland inside the body. The silk is incredibly strong and smooth. They also spin sticky silk, which traps their prey. When an insect gets caught in the web, the spider feels the threads shake, and goes in for the attack.

Different spiders spin different kinds of web. Here's how a Garden spider spins its web, which is called an orb web.

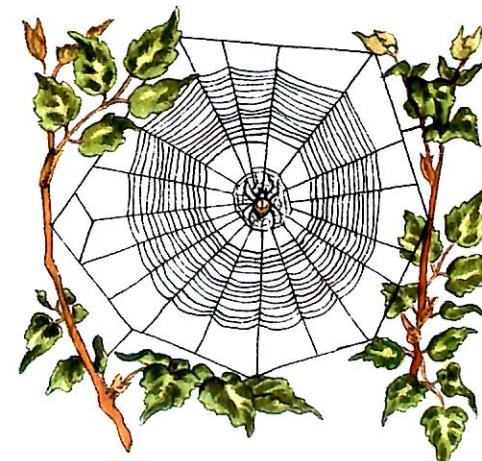
1 The spider sits on a twig and casts out a thread of silk, just like an angler casting a line. The thread catches on another twig.



2 The spider runs along the thread, casting out a second thread. Halfway along the second thread the spider drops down until it reaches another twig.

3 The spider spins more threads around the edge and then adds threads going from the edge into the centre.

4 Working from the centre, the spider spins a spiral of dry silk. This holds the web together. These threads will be replaced by sticky ones.



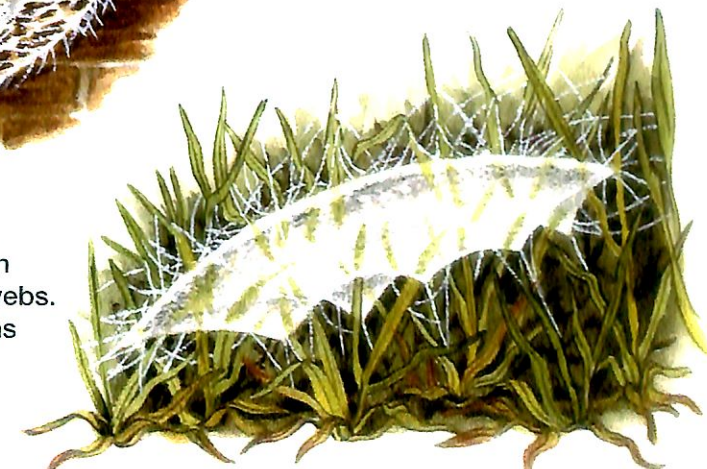
5 As it spins the sticky threads, the spider eats the dry ones. It leaves some dry threads in the middle of the web as a platform, where it can lie in wait for a victim.

Here are two more common spiders' webs to look for.



House spiders spin cobwebs in dark corners.

Money spiders spin dome-shaped sheet webs. Look for them on lawns early in the morning.





COLLECT A SPIDER'S WEB

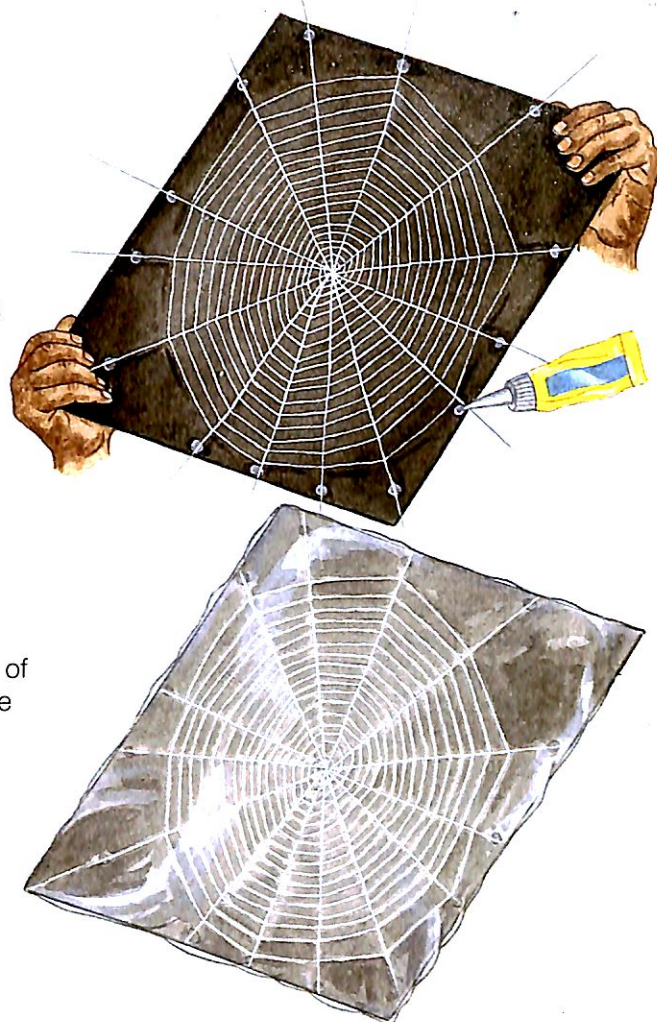
You will need:

Talcum powder, glue, black card, scissors, sticky-backed plastic or clingfilm

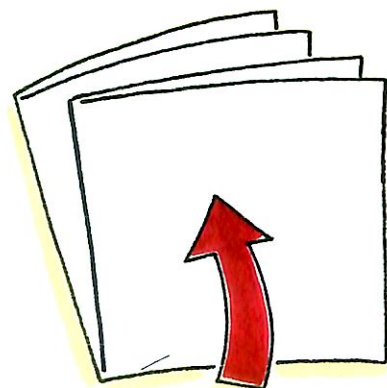
1 Find an empty spider's web hanging in an open space. Blow some talcum powder over the web so that it is easier to see.

2 Put a few spots of glue around the edge of a piece of black card. Carefully lift the card towards the web from behind until it sticks.

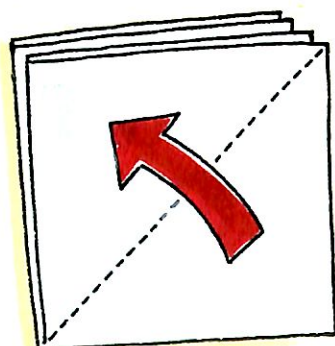
3 Cut the threads of the web outside the card. To preserve the web, cover the card with sticky-backed plastic or clingfilm when the glue is dry.



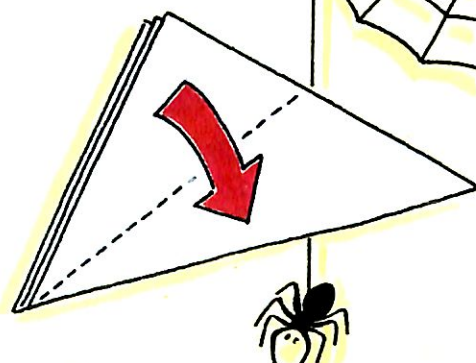
PAPER WEB



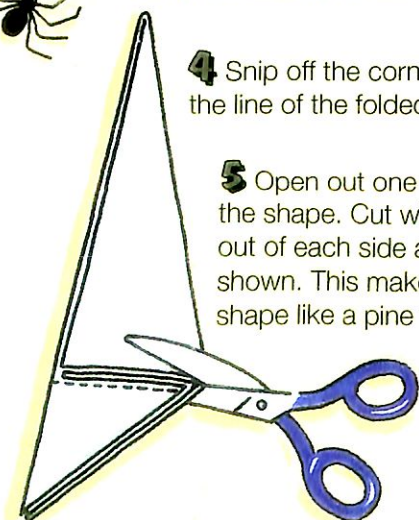
1 Fold a piece of thin square paper in half and in half again.



2 Fold it corner to corner:

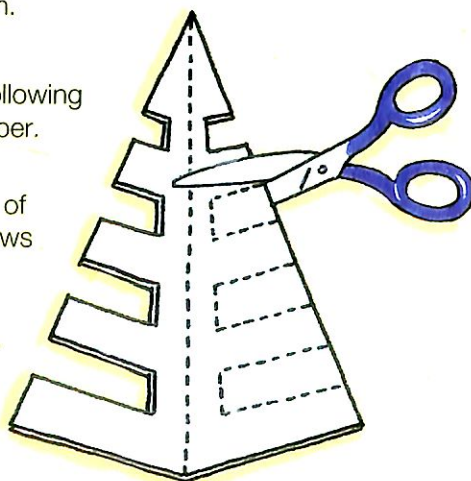


3 Fold the top corner down to meet the bottom edge.

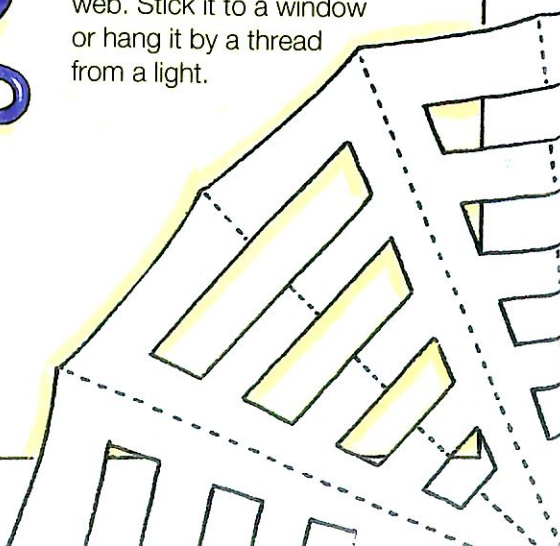


4 Snip off the corner following the line of the folded paper.

5 Open out one fold of the shape. Cut windows out of each side as shown. This makes a shape like a pine tree.



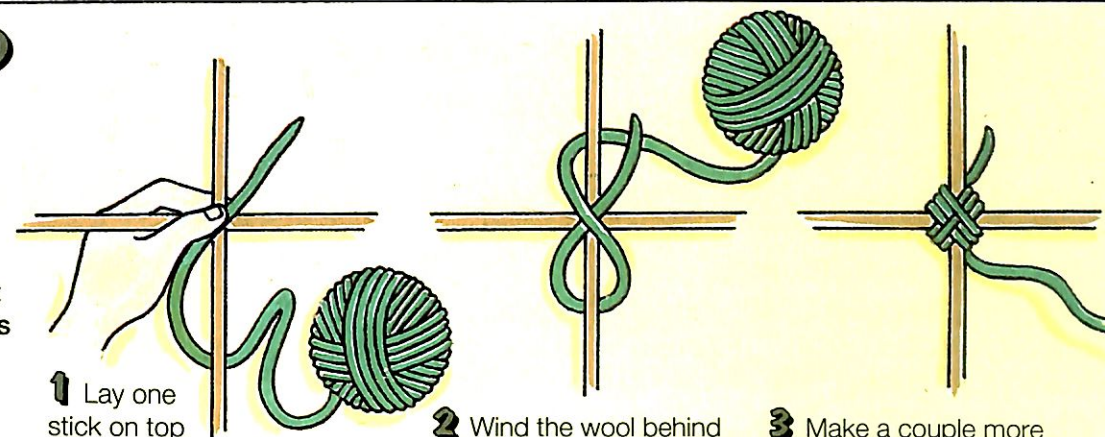
6 Carefully unfold your paper web. Stick it to a window or hang it by a thread from a light.



EYE OF GOD

Spiders aren't the only creatures to weave – people do, too. This colourful woven star comes from Mexico where it's made as a lucky charm. They call it Ojo de Dio, which means Eye of God.

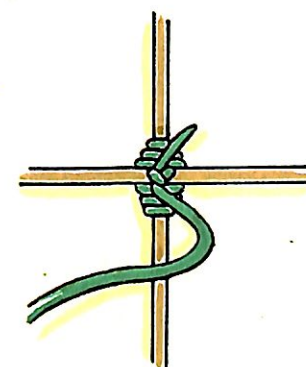
You will need:
2 straight sticks about 18cm long, thick wool in several colours, scissors



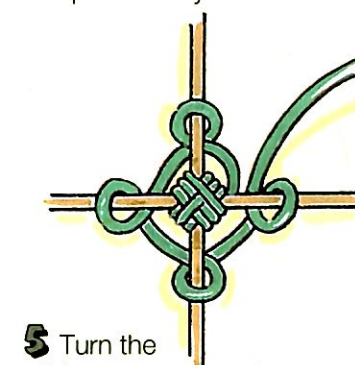
1 Lay one stick on top of the other at right angles. Lay one end of the wool diagonally across the sticks with about 10cm hanging off the end. Hold it in place with your thumb.

2 Wind the wool behind the lower stick then diagonally across and behind the top part of the stick to make a figure of eight as shown.

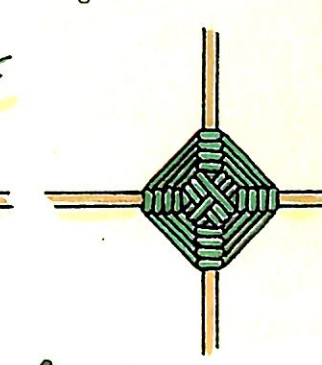
3 Make a couple more figures of eight, so that the sticks are lashed together. Pull the wool tight.



4 Turn the sticks over and tie a tight knot at the centre. Trim the loose end.

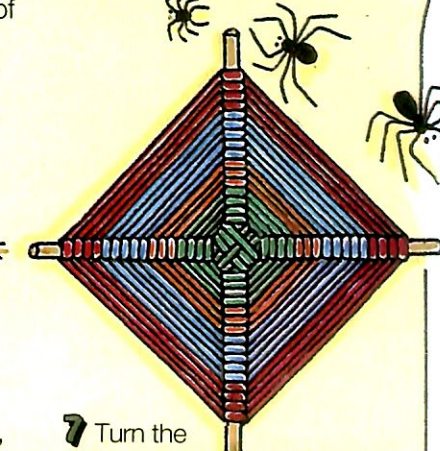


5 Turn the sticks over so that the knot is at the back. Pass the wool under one stick and loop it over the top. Then pass the wool under the next stick and so on round all four sticks. Carry on winding wool round the sticks until you have woven about 2cm.



6 To start a new colour, turn the star over and cut the yarn leaving a tail of about 10cm. Tuck the tail under the last loop and pull the end tightly. Tie a new coloured wool to the tail of the old wool. Tie the knot as close as possible to the back of the star.

7 Turn the star over and carry on winding wool round as before. Change colours again when you want to. When you reach the end of the sticks tie a knot at the back, leaving a tail to hang it up by.

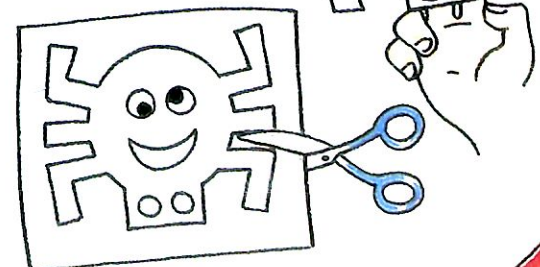


What's a spider's favourite food?
CORN ON THE COB.

Here are three ideas for making spider puppets.

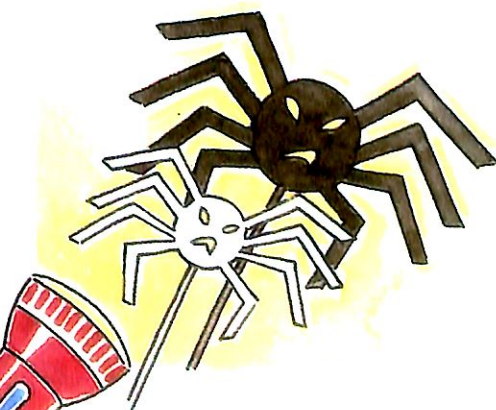
SILLY SPIDER

For the body, draw round a cup or tumbler on to thin card. Draw a tab with two circles on it underneath. Draw six legs, three each side of the body. Draw a face and colour the spider. Cut it out. Carefully cut out two holes on the tab. Stick your fingers through the holes to be your spider's fourth pair of legs.



SPOOKY SPIDER

Draw a spider on card and cut it out. Make holes for the eyes and mouth. Tape the spider to the end of a stick. Shine the torch at a wall in a dark room. Move the puppet around between the torch and the wall and make the shadow dance.



SPEEDY SPIDER

Stick felt eyes on to an old black glove. See your spider run!



KEEPING COOL

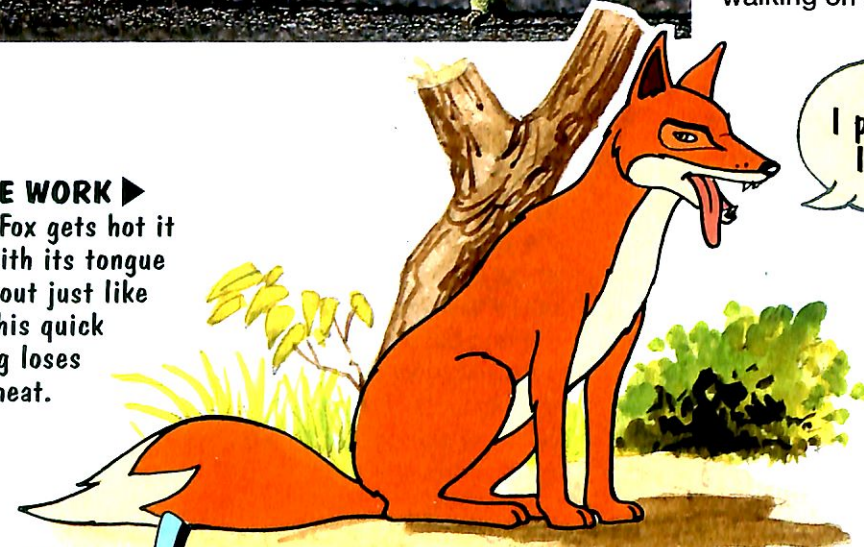
To keep cool, some animals do what people do and stay in the shade or have a nice cooling dip. Others have more unusual ways of going about it – such as using their ears to lose heat, walking on tiptoes over the hot ground, or building a cooling tower over their home.



◀STRETCHING ITS LEGS
When the ground gets really hot, the Common chameleon raises itself on tiptoes so its body can cool off a bit. This makes it look almost as if it's walking on stilts!

What does a Vampire take for a cold?
Coffin drops.

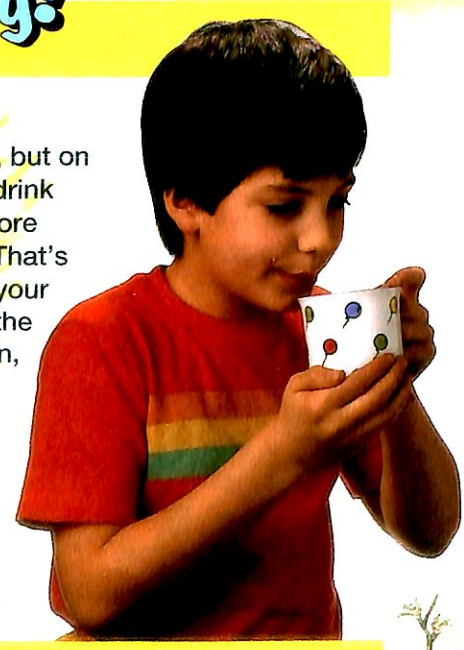
▶TONGUE WORK
When a Fox gets hot it pants, with its tongue hanging out just like a dog. This quick breathing loses the Fox heat.



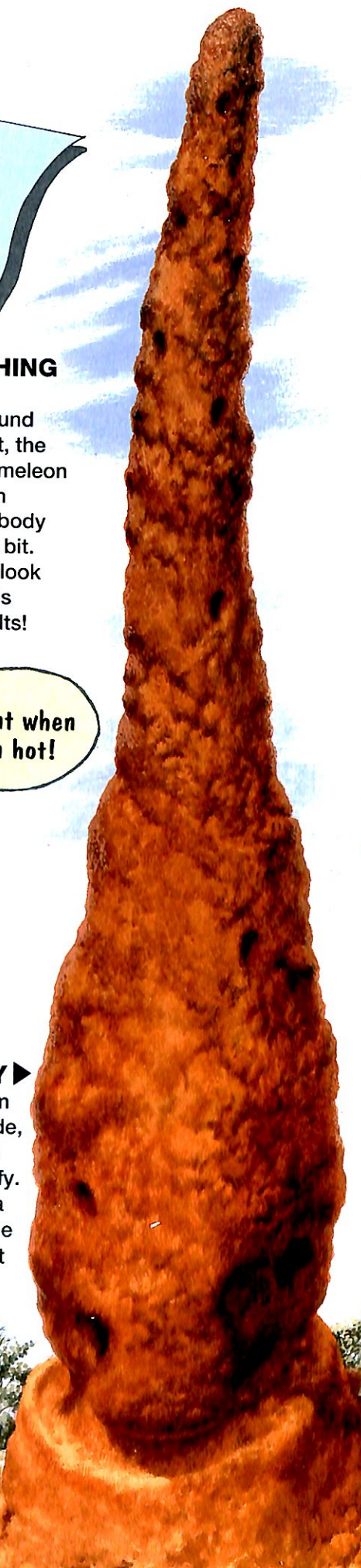
I pant when I'm hot!

IT'S Amazing!

COOL DOWN
It may seem crazy, but on a warm day a hot drink cools you down more than a cold drink. That's because it makes your blood flow nearer the surface of your skin, where it can lose more heat. Also you sweat. You cool down by about 1.5°C and this lasts for about quarter of an hour.



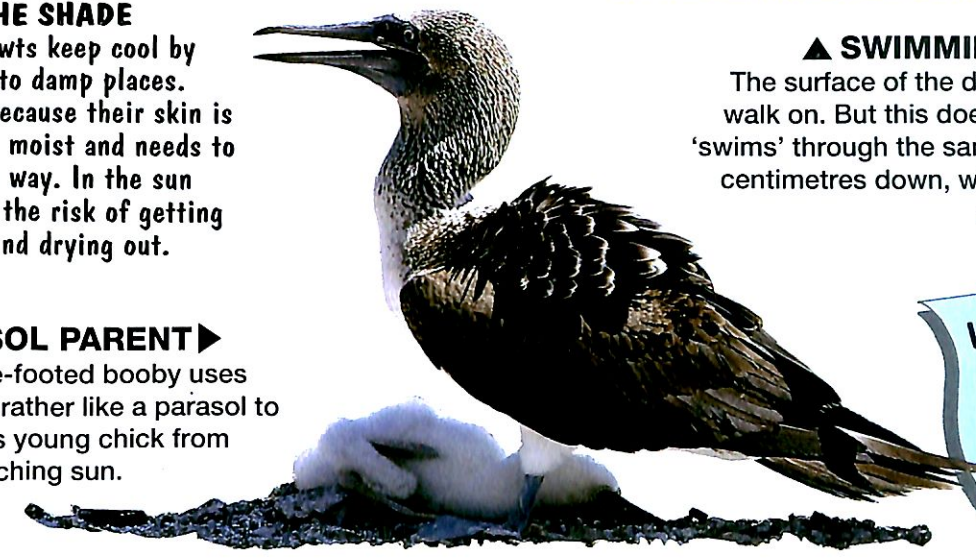
▶UP THE CHIMNEY
With around two million little insects living inside, the termite mound can get rather hot and stuffy. That's why they build a tall chimney on top. The hot air rises up inside it and is replaced by cooler air coming in through holes in the sides.



I have to keep cool, otherwise I have all sorts of problems!

▲ IN THE SHADE
Adult newts keep cool by sticking to damp places. This is because their skin is naturally moist and needs to stay that way. In the sun they run the risk of getting too hot and drying out.

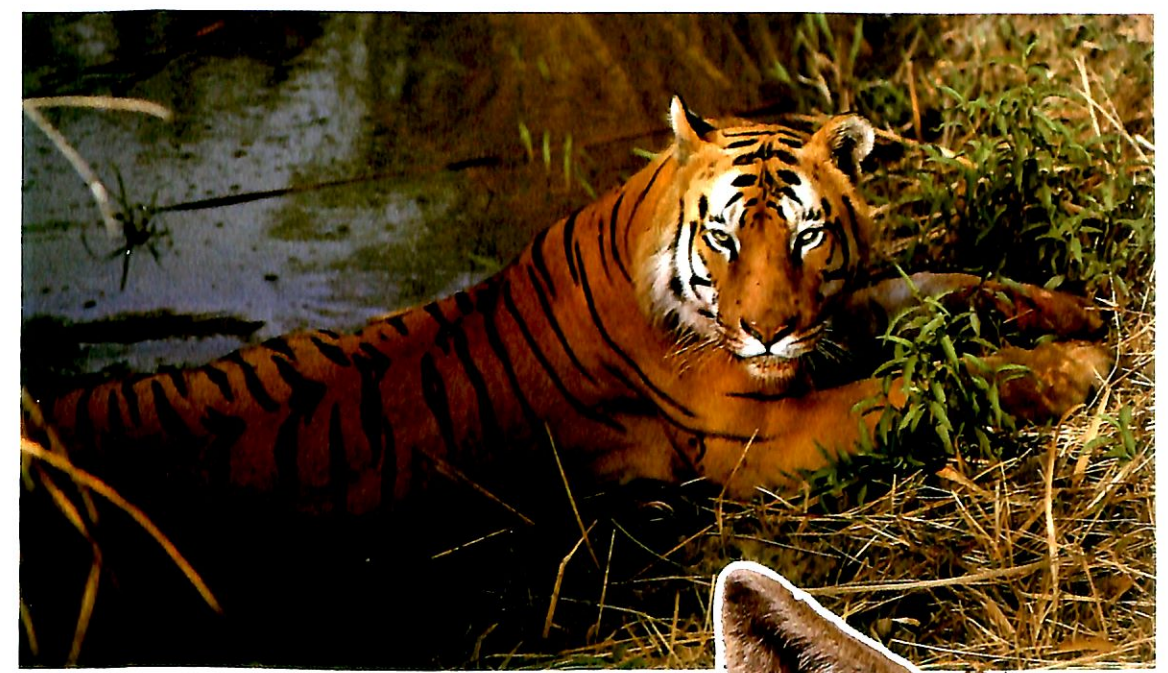
▶PARASOL PARENT
The Blue-footed booby uses its body rather like a parasol to shade its young chick from the scorching sun.



What wears a coat all winter and pants all summer?
A dog!



▲ SWIMMING THROUGH SAND
The surface of the desert can get pretty hot to walk on. But this doesn't worry the Sandfish. It 'swims' through the sand, choosing a route a few centimetres down, where the sand hasn't been warmed by the sun's rays.



◀COOLING DIP
Tigers try to beat the heat with a cooling dip. They lie fully stretched out in the shallows at the edge of a pool. If they're rather hungry, they might even be tempted to catch a fish as they are strong swimmers.

▶EARS LIKE RADIATORS
The Fennec is the smallest member of the Fox family, but it has the largest ears. These aren't just to help it hear, though. The blood vessels run close to the surface of the skin, giving off lots of the Fennec's body heat so it can cool down.

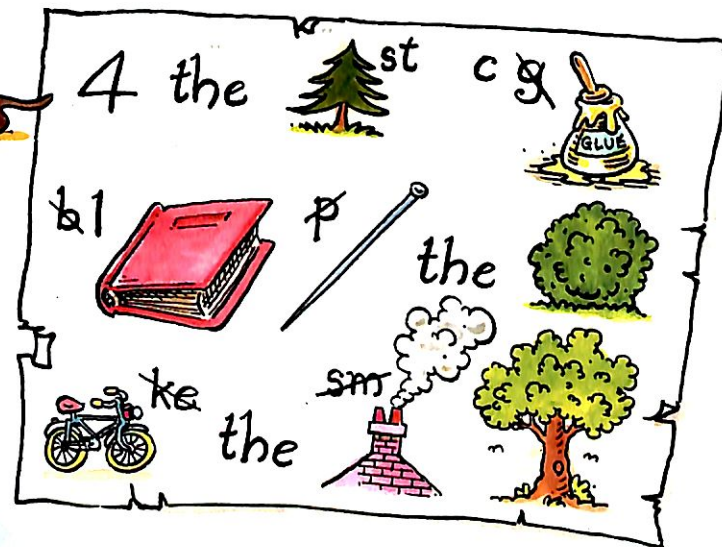


THE TREASURE HUNT

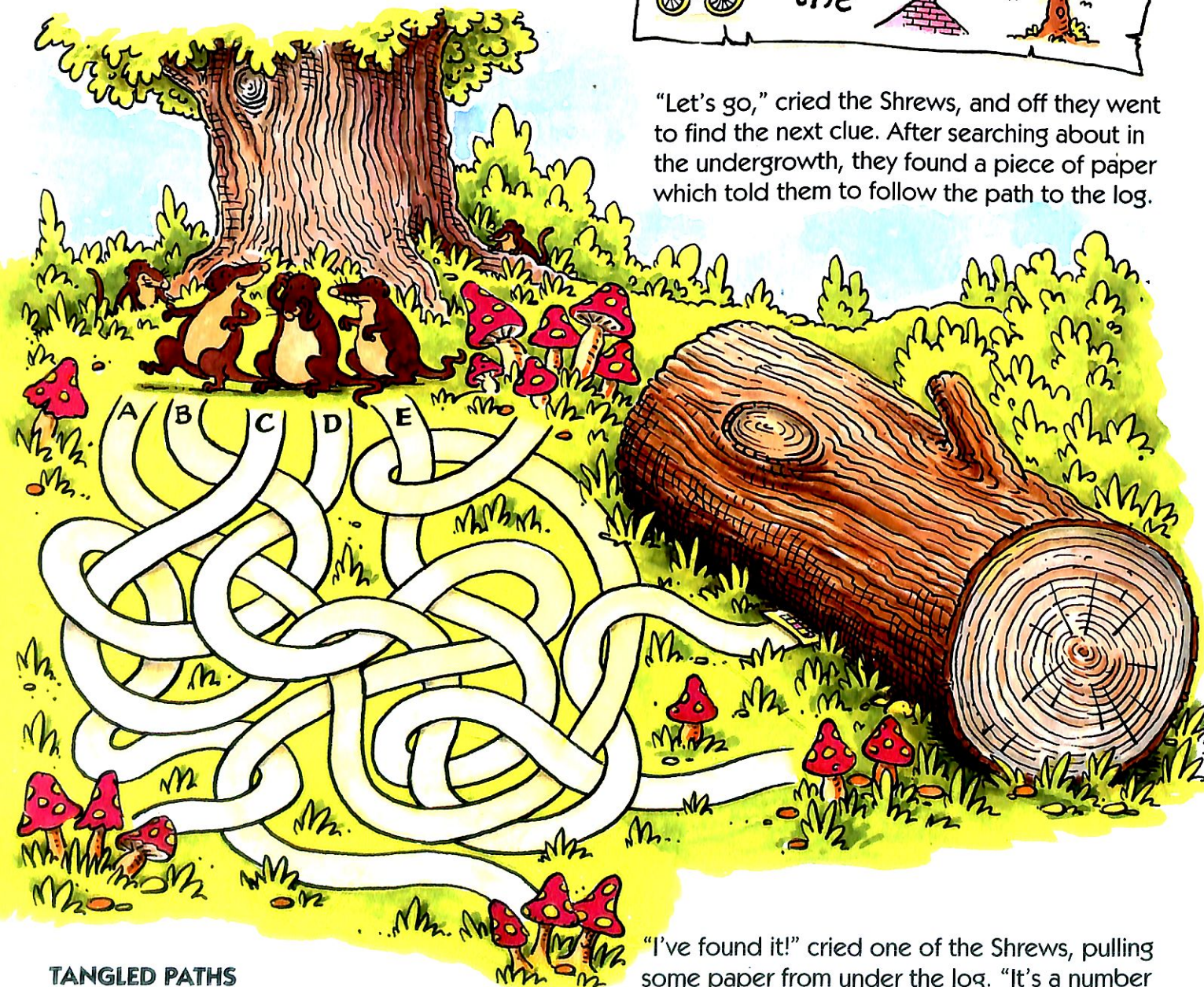


The young Shrews were squabbling. "Come on now," said their father. "I think you ought to go outside and play. Shall I set up a treasure hunt?" "Yes, please," squeaked the Shrew children. They waited while Mr Shrew laid the clues. Then he handed a piece of paper to the oldest Shrew.

SECRET MESSAGE
Can you help the Shrews read what's on the paper?



"Let's go," cried the Shrews, and off they went to find the next clue. After searching about in the undergrowth, they found a piece of paper which told them to follow the path to the log.

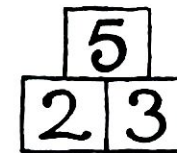


TANGLED PATHS
Which of the paths leads to the log?

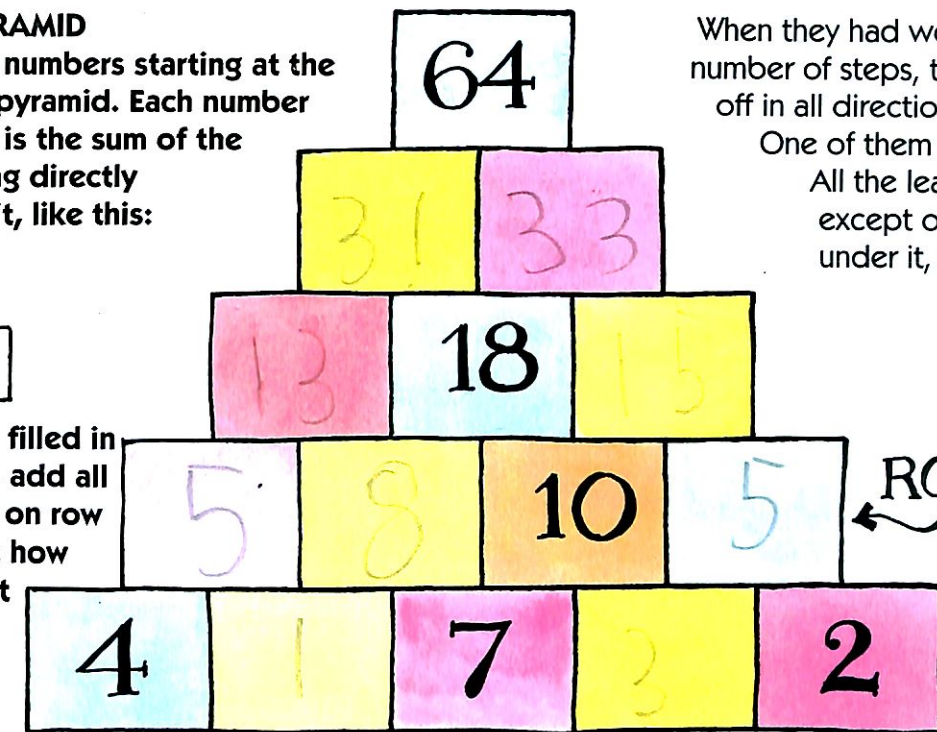
"I've found it!" cried one of the Shrews, pulling some paper from under the log. "It's a number puzzle. We have to work it out before we can go on."

NUMBER PYRAMID

Fill in all the numbers starting at the base of the pyramid. Each number on each row is the sum of the numbers lying directly underneath it, like this:



Once you've filled in the pyramid, add all the numbers on row 2 to find out how many steps it is to the next clue.

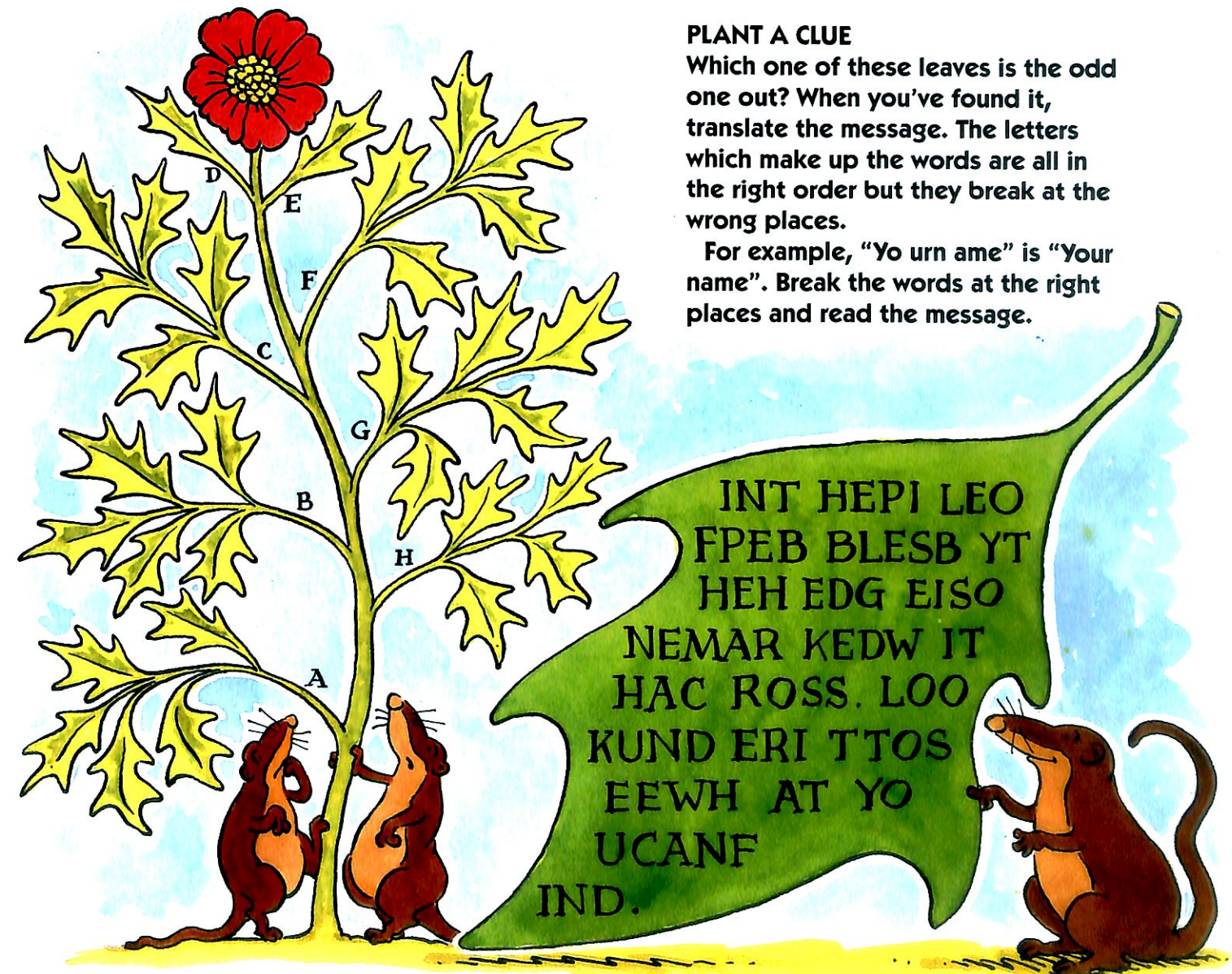


When they had worked out the correct number of steps, the little Shrews crept off in all directions, counting carefully. One of them stopped by a flower. All the leaves looked the same except one. When she looked under it, she found a message written in code.

PLANT A CLUE

Which one of these leaves is the odd one out? When you've found it, translate the message. The letters which make up the words are all in the right order but they break at the wrong places.

For example, "Yo urn ame" is "Your name". Break the words at the right places and read the message.



Puzzle it out???

Having read the message, the Shrews rushed over to the hedge and there they saw a number of pebbles.

"There's the one we want," called out the eldest, pointing to the middle of the pile. "But why are all the pebbles marked with dots?"

"Perhaps the pebbles with an odd number of dots lead to the pebble we want," said one of the Shrews.

Was she right?

CROSSING THE PEBBLES

Follow the odd-numbered dots and see if they lead to the pebble marked with a cross.



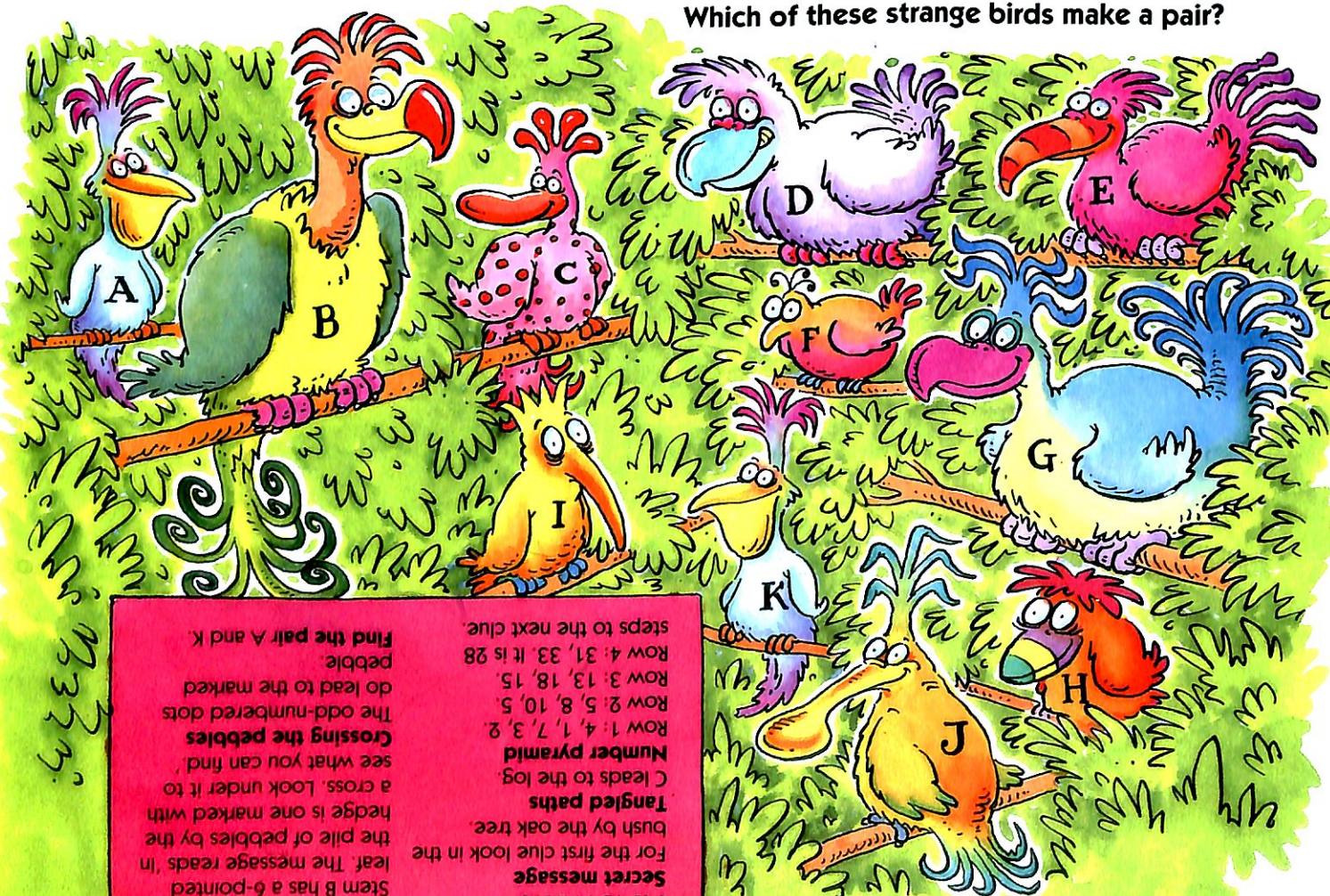
When they finally found their way to the right pebble, the Shrews grouped round it. Someone shouted "Heave!" and all the Shrews pushed the stone up at the same time. Underneath was a piece of paper.

"Whoever solves this puzzle wins the prize," they read.

Can you solve it?

FIND THE PAIR

Which of these strange birds make a pair?



ANSWERS

Plant a clue

Secret message
For the first clue look in the
leaf. The message reads 'In
the pile of pebbles by the
hedge is one marked with
a cross. Look under it to
see what you can find.'
Crossing the pebbles
The odd-numbered dots
do lead to the marked
pebble.
Find the pair A and K.

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TREASURE ISLAND

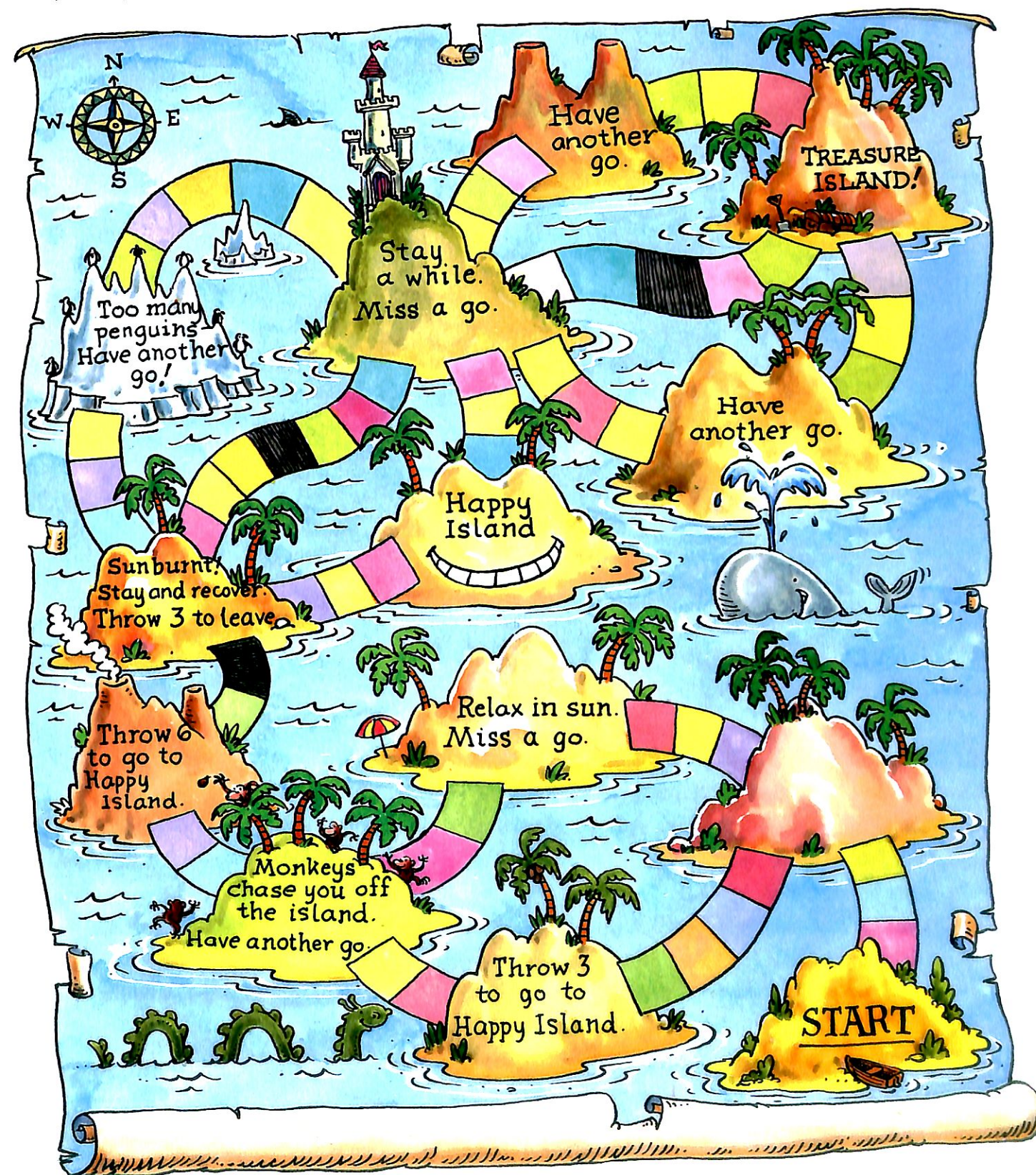
A game to play with a friend or two. You need a small counter for each player and a dice.

How to play

Each player takes it in turns to throw the dice and move their counter the correct number of squares (the islands count as one square).

- If you land on an island, do as you are told.
- If you land on a black square, miss a go.
- When you are near Treasure Island, you must throw the exact number of squares to get you on to the island.

Have a go, my hearties – and good luck!





FARTHING WOOD FRIENDS

WILDLIFE COMPETITION



Dear Farthing Wood Friends,

“As you know, life's pretty tough for many of us wild animals in Britain today. We've got to cope with humans, buildings, traffic and pollution. We Animals of Farthing Wood do our best to help each other but we need your help, too. The more humans that know and care about wildlife, the better things will be for us and all the other creatures in Britain.

I'd like you to choose one endangered British wild animal, find out as much about it as you can, then design a poster telling me about the plight of your animal. The winners will receive unique gold, silver and bronze medals and there will be a top prize of a day out filming with Chris Packham and The Really Wild Show team. So send off for an entry form NOW!

Look forward to hearing from you.”

Fox

To enter the Farthing Wood Friends competition you need to be aged 7-11. Write your name and address on an A4 envelope with a 25p stamp on it and send it to:

Farthing Wood Friends Wildlife Competition,
BBC Children's,
Room E609, East Tower,
Television Centre,
Wood Lane,
London W12 7RJ.

THE CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES IS 15TH SEPTEMBER 1994.

SEND FOR AN
ENTRY FORM
TODAY!